

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health

WATCHWORD 19.10.16

WATCH update

Climate conversations workshop, Saturday 29 October, 1.30-3.30pm, Sustainable Activity Centre, Wodonga.

Talking about climate change can sometimes feel more taboo than sex, religion and politics. If you'd like help manoeuvring those tricky moments, come along to our climate conversations workshop. It's facilitated by experienced psychologists from Melbourne's Psychology for a Safe Climate. **Please RSVP by Saturday 22 October.** For more information, see: ecoportal.net.au/event/climate-conversations-workshop.

Wodonga Council elections

WATCH asked all candidates to complete four quick questions. Ten candidates responded. When asked to rate climate action on a five point scale, Alison Reed, Ant Packer, Kat Bennett, Lubosh Hanuska and Trevor White gave it the highest priority score. The candidates' full responses are on our website

<https://watch.id.au/2016/10/03/wodonga-council-election/>

Albury Council

The new Albury councillors voted for their mayor and the deciding vote was cast by Greens councillor Amanda Cohn. When asked by the media why she was voting for one incumbent over the other, she mentioned two factors, one of which was that he accepted climate change whereas the other councillor was a climate fence-sitter. Amanda is unlikely to have known this about the councillors if it weren't for our survey. Here's an article in the Border Mail: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4180141/mayors-job-is-sealed-in-deal/>

Hazelwood power station

Six years ago WATCH began campaigning for the closure of Hazelwood. We created a huge cake replica of the power station, complete with steam pouring from the cooling towers. WATCH is extremely pleased to hear that Hazelwood may close in early 2017 and believes it's long overdue news.

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4186258/hazelwood-shutdown-victorias-dirtiest-power-station-set-to-close-early-next-year/?cs=7>

Thanks to Lauriston Muirhead for speaking to the Border Mail on behalf of WATCH:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4186959/hazelwoods-likely-end-a-win-watch/?cs=11>

Henty Field Days

Lizette Salmon, Bruce Key, Joseph Birkhead, Ron and Liz Hammond attended the Henty Field Days to help out the Farmers for Climate Action with surveys. Have a look at this Australian Geographic article and the second photo featuring Lizette and Bruce:

<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/news/2016/09/farmers-asked-to-share-their-climate-change-experience>

Letters in the BM

Greg Oates says what needed to be said about the SA power outages! Please scroll down to the fourth one:

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4198451/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=14>

Well done to David Macilwain with his letter the first on the page commenting on the floods.

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4210304/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=52>

WATCH meetings

WATCH meets every second month in central Albury. We offer plenty of opportunities to take positive action. Find out more by attending one of our friendly meetings. The next one is on Tuesday 13th December at 6pm. Please RSVP to Lizette on 60 59 4185 to be advised of the venue.

Community renewable energy

Renewable Albury Wodonga Energy (RAW Energy)

Good news! Wodonga Council, in conjunction with RAW Energy, has been successful in receiving a grant from the Victorian Government's New Energy Jobs Fund. \$80,000 has been granted to conduct a feasibility study and develop a plan for a solar farm within Wodonga that can benefit the community. The grant has been boosted by \$20,000 from Wodonga council. The project has been officially announced in a media release along with a number of others in the region. <http://www.jaclynsmes.com.au/media-releases/funding-boost-for-local-energy-projects/>

Solar future sky-high | The Border Mail

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4216579/solar-future-sky-high/?cs=11>

Border Mail editorial

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4217537/solar-commitment-shows-new-way-forward/?cs=14>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Renewable-Albury-Wodonga-RAW-Energy-1628745107358278/> For further details and to receive regular RAW Energy updates please contact us at: renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com

Ecoportal

<http://www.ecoportal.net.au>

Ecoportal is your online directory, listing groups and events for sustainable living in Albury-Wodonga, North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales. Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Ecoportal.net.au?fref=nf>

Welcome this month to [Sustainable Activity Centre](#) and [Gum Swamp Reserve \(Walla Walla\) management committee](#).

October <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-10/>

November <http://ecoportal.net.au/events/2016-11/>

Albury-Wodonga's Sustainable Living Festival

How will your actions today affect the future generation of your descendants?

This year Albury-Wodonga's Sustainable Living Festival will run for all of November and includes a host of interesting events. Check out the program including pop-up workshops, talks, demonstrations and exhibits to learn the tools to reduce, reuse and save money: alburycity.nsw.gov.au/slf2016 And please follow us on [Facebook](#). Those of you who subscribe to *Ecoportal* will be treated to weekly alerts on all the events. In particular, note the Green Market from 5-8pm on Thursday 10th November where WATCH will have a stall.

Professor Ross Garnaut – The Paris Climate Summit and the Emerging Role of Battery Storage Technology, Tuesday November 15, 7pm - 9pm, Albury Entertainment Centre

Professor Ross Garnaut presents a 'Post Paris' debrief on what is required for the global transition to a low carbon economy and the economic opportunity this presents for both Australia and our local region. ZEN Energy founder Richard Turner will also take the audience through the latest in home and commercial solar and particularly energy storage technologies (batteries). This is a session not to be missed and seats will fill fast so book now to avoid disappointment. **Bookings are essential by 11th November** [Book your place here](#) or phone 02 6023 8156.

Living Lightly

Living Lightly is published every Wednesday in the Border Mail and published on the Ecoportal website www.ecoportal.net.au/articles/. The word limit has been reduced to 380. Please keep the articles coming as more are always required. Send them to Karen Bowley: kbowley53@gmail.com

More excellent articles this month:

- [A Menu in the Making](#) By Megan Hunt, Health Promotion Coordinator at Gateway Health
- [Foraging, the new foodie fad](#) By Gill Baker, Wangaratta Sustainability
- [Cycling Trips and Tips](#) By Lizette Salmon, Repair Café Albury-Wodonga
- [Why Dams are Out of Date](#) By Alan Hewett, Trust For Nature Covenanter

Wild pollinators

Spring Wild Pollinator Count, 13th – 20th November

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/wild-pollinator-count-begins-sp16/>

The Wild Pollinator Count is a national event, run twice a year, that aims to raise awareness about pollinator insects and collect information about them. We invite you to count wild pollinator insects in your local environment and help us build a database on wild pollinator activity. You can join in by watching any flowering plant for just ten minutes sometime in our count week. The spring 2016 count will run from the 13th to the 20th of November. Find out [how to count pollinators](#), identify [the insects](#) you see and [submit your observations](#) and more by visiting our website: wildpollinatorcount.com.

Pollinator insects in your Garden

Learn about these native bees, butterflies, flies, beetles and more, and how you can encourage them to keep up their great work in your garden. You might be amazed by what you can see if you take the time to look. Various sessions with Karen Retra:

Monday November 7th, 10 - 11:30 am, Felltimber Community Centre

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/pollinator-insects-in-your-garden/>

Tuesday November 8th, 2 - 3:30 pm, Felltimber Community Centre

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/pollinator-insects-in-your-garden-2/>

Tuesday November 15th, 3:45 pm - 4:30 pm, Baranduda Community Centre

<http://ecoportal.net.au/event/pollinator-insects-in-your-garden-3-2/>

Birds, bees and bugs: your garden is an ecosystem and it needs looking after

<https://theconversation.com/birds-bees-and-bugs-your-garden-is-an-ecosystem-and-it-needs-looking-after-65226>

Plastic bag ban

Make Plastic Bag Free Victoria a reality and support the Senate Inquiry

The Victorian Environment and Planning Committee is currently inviting written submissions from individuals and organisations addressing any element of the [Environment Protection Amendment \(Banning Plastic Bags, Packaging and Microbeads\) Bill 2016](#).

Plastic Free Victoria has drafted a submission for groups to copy and paste. Individual submissions will also be important, even more so if they include photos. Instructions here: <http://us12.campaign-archive2.com/?u=a9091a500790142212e29606e&id=1ef6ce702d&e=544a2f6d7a>

Boomerang Bags – Sew Sustainable

Boomerang Bags is a community driven initiative tackling plastic pollution at the grassroots level. Dedicated schools, community groups, businesses and volunteers get together to make re-useable 'Boomerang Bags' using recycled materials as a means to replace plastic bags. A great idea!

<http://boomerangbags.org/>

Power outages in SA

South Australian storms and power outages - Climate Council

Read the Climate Council's fact sheet to find out what really happened:

<http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/uploads/fce96e2763a471db5202d897bb0bda90.pdf>

Climate change must be part of Australia's electricity system review

A thoughtful article by Tony Wood from the Grattan Institute:

<https://theconversation.com/climate-change-must-be-part-of-australias-electricity-system-review-66684>

A message from the ACF

South Australia just endured one of the strongest storms in Australia's history with 80,000 lightning strikes and cyclonic winds that ripped electrical towers right out of the ground and caused a statewide electricity blackout.

[Will you send Minister Frydenberg a quick message now and tell him to lead on a national plan to close our dirty coal-burning power stations and transition to clean, renewable energy?](#)

Our top picks from Radio National

The Lucky Country?

Thoughts from Ian Lowe on Ockham's Razor.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/the-lucky-country/7869268>

Background Briefing "Betting the Farm"

Here is an up to date piece about farmers and farming responses to the reality and threat of climate change with comment from scientists: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/2016-10-02/7888334>

Or here is the direct link to the podcast:

http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2016/10/bbg_20161002_0805.mp3

Good news stories

National Landcare award is well deserved | The Border Mail

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4189652/national-landcare-award-is-well-deserved/?cs=14>

The science is in: gardening is good for you

<https://theconversation.com/the-science-is-in-gardening-is-good-for-you-65251>

Vale Bill Mollison

Tributes flow in for permaculture 'father' Bill Mollison - ABC News

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-09-26/tributes-flow-in-for-permaculture-father-bill-mollison/7878118>

A revolution disguised as organic gardening: in memory of Bill Mollison

<https://theconversation.com/a-revolution-disguised-as-organic-gardening-in-memory-of-bill-mollison-66137>

A quote which really says it all:

"Sitting at our back doorsteps, all we need to live a good life lies about us. Sun, wind, people, buildings, stones, sea, birds and plants surround us. Cooperation with all these things brings harmony, opposition to them brings disaster and chaos." — [Bill Mollison](#)

Thanks again to everyone who provided content for this newsletter. Next one is due out on Wednesday 23rd November.

Warm regards,

Jenny Davies

WATCH website Please check our website: www.watch.id.au

WATCH email address: watch.albwod@gmail.com